FINS5541
Advanced Investments and Funds Management

Course Outline
Semester 1, 2016

Part A: Course-Specific Information
Part B: Key Policies, Student Responsibilities and Support
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PART A: COURSE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1  STAFF CONTACT DETAILS
Lecturer-in-charge: Pedro Barroso
Room QUAD 2119
Phone No: 9385 5854
Email: p.barroso@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Times – Monday 17:15-18:45 (or by appointment)

2  COURSE DETAILS

2.1  Teaching Times and Locations
Lectures start in Week 1 (to Week 12). The Time and Location are Wednesdays from 18:00 to 21:00 in room Old Main Building (OMB) 150.

2.2  Units of Credit
The course is worth 6 units of credit. There is no parallel teaching in this course.

2.3  Summary of Course
This course covers advanced topics in investments and funds management such as: 1) equity valuation; 2) alternative investment classes such as real estate, private equity, commodities, currencies, and hedge funds; 3) performance measurement and portfolio management.

2.4  Course Aims and Relationship to Other Courses
The course aims to complement the training provided in FINS5513, focusing on topics either introduced in that course or not covered but still a core part of the body of knowledge for the Finance profession and Investments in particular. One of the main aims of the course is to provide students with training in security analysis. That is methods for security analysts to search for under-valued / over-valued securities relative to some objective criteria.

Another focus of the course is alternative investments. Alternative investments refer both to asset classes other than stocks and equities and to approaches different from the conventional buy and hold passive strategy. Alternative asset classes include real estate, private equity, commodities, and currencies. To the extent these have specific risks and rewards they can offer a potential way for investors to diversify their risk. The same can apply to hedge fund strategies like liquidity provision, volatility scaling and others. This course aims to explain the essential concepts behind these alternative asset classes, with a major focus on alternative hedge fund strategies.

Finally, one essential aim of the course is to assess the performance of active managers and use that information to manage portfolios including both passive benchmarks and actively managed funds. The main empirical challenges of portfolio management are also addressed.

As most courses in finance, this course requires some basic knowledge of mathematics, statistics and accounting.

2.5  Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, you should be able to:
1. Explain the most important approaches to value common stocks.
2. Value stocks using a dividend discount model or a free cash flow approach.
3. Estimate the growth rate of firms and its terminal value.
4. Use relative value methods to value common stocks.
5. Explain what hedge funds are, their different types and the most common strategies they follow.
6. Explain what mortgage backed securities and REITs are and discuss their risk and return.
7. Be familiar with the terminology of private equity investments and discuss the difficulties in measuring the performance of private equity investments.
8. Explain different investment approaches in the commodities market and related concepts such as backwardation and contango. Compute returns of these strategies.
9. Know how to evaluate the performance of portfolios and active managers of those portfolios.
10. Know how to design actively managed portfolios and explain its investment policy.
11. Discuss some of the main findings of recent research on asset return predictability and portfolio management.

The Course Learning Outcomes are what you should be able to DO by the end of this course if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

The Learning Outcomes in this course also help you to achieve some of the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes for all postgraduate students in the Business School. Program Learning Goals are what we want you to BE or HAVE by the time you successfully complete your degree (e.g. ‘be an effective team player’). You demonstrate this by achieving specific Program Learning Outcomes - what you are able to DO by the end of your degree (e.g. ‘participate collaboratively and responsibly in teams’).

For more information on the Postgraduate Coursework Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, see Part B of the course outline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Postgraduate Coursework Program Learning Goals and Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Knowledge: Our graduates will have current disciplinary or interdisciplinary knowledge applicable in local and global contexts.</td>
</tr>
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<td>You should be able to identify and apply current knowledge of disciplinary or interdisciplinary theory and professional practice to business in local and global environments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Critical thinking and problem solving: Our graduates will have critical thinking and problem solving skills applicable to business and management practice or issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You should be able to identify, research and analyse complex issues and problems in business and/or management, and propose appropriate and well-justified solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Communication: Our graduates will be effective communicators in professional contexts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You should be able to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Produce written documents that communicate complex disciplinary ideas and information effectively for the intended audience and purpose, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Produce oral presentations that communicate complex disciplinary ideas and information effectively for the intended audience and purpose.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. Teamwork: Our graduates will be effective team participants. 
You should be able to participate collaboratively and responsibly in teams, and reflect on your own teamwork, and on the team’s processes and ability to achieve outcomes.

5. Ethical, social and environmental responsibility: Our graduates will have a sound awareness of ethical, social, cultural and environmental implications of business issues and practice.
You should be able to:
   a. Identify and assess ethical, environmental and/or sustainability considerations in business decision-making and practice, and
   b. Consider social and cultural implications of business and/or management practice.

The following table shows how your Course Learning Outcomes relate to the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, and indicates where these are assessed (they may also be developed in tutorials and other activities):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Goals and Outcomes</th>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Course Assessment Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course helps you to achieve the following learning goals for all Business postgraduate coursework students:</td>
<td>On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:</td>
<td>This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1 Knowledge | Know the main methods of common stock valuation. Discuss the properties of alternative investment classes and how they fit in the global picture of asset management. | • Report  
• Exams |
| 2 Critical thinking and problem solving | Solve real investment problems as valuing a stock or measuring the performance of a portfolio. | • Exams  
• Report |
| 3a Written communication | Construct written work which is well articulated and logically presented. | • Exams  
• Report |
| 3b Oral communication | Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner. | • No specifically assessed. |
| 4 Teamwork | Not specifically addressed in this course. | |
| 5a. Ethical, social and environmental responsibility | Not specifically addressed in this course. | |
| 5b. Social and cultural awareness | Not specifically addressed in this course. | |

3 LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course
We seek to create an interesting, challenging, relevant, and engaging education experience. To help achieve this objective we have a number of teaching aims:
• Create a climate of engagement, dialogue and ongoing feedback between students and lecturers regarding the content, teaching strategies, learning experiences and outcomes;
• Cater for a variety of learning preferences and abilities by providing a range of learning activities and teaching methods;
• Develop independent learning skills and create an environment that provides both structure and guidance as well as encourages students to extend their learning.

3.2 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

The (online) lecture
The (online) lectures set out the main conceptual frameworks for each topic. They synthesize materials from various sources. You are advised to start with the online lectures to get the main ideas and then read the textbooks and other relevant materials. From a time management perspective, this means you will need to allocate at least 10 hours per week for the online lecture and reading.

We bring current research to class. We do this by presenting and discussing recent papers on topics of interest to the course. In the lectures we will also solve exercises to facilitate the interpretation of each topic’s most important insights and develop problem-solving skills. These should also prepare you for the exams.

The equity research project
A fundamental part of the course is about stock valuation. So you will be asked to value a stock. This is the “equity research project.” This should be a real example of an actively traded stock and you should be able to produce a recommendation to buy or sell the stock. You should be able to do this using the methods learned in class (possibly complemented with others you find through your own independent research). The equity research project is a teamwork assignment.

If you need any assistance in managing your time you will find the UNSW Business Schools’ Education Development Unit (EDU) a useful resource.

4 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Formal Requirements
In order to pass this course, you must:
• achieve a composite mark of at least 50; and
• make a satisfactory attempt at all assessment tasks (see below).

4.2 Assessment Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-session exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>TBA (week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity research project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1500 words</td>
<td>23:59 on April 26th, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>During University Exam Period 10th to 27th of June, date &amp; time TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mid-session exam
This is a 2-hour comprehensive in-class exam to be held in week 6. It will cover the materials from week 1 to 5.

Equity research project
I will provide a list of eligible stocks to analyse with Australian and international equities. You should form groups of 3-4 members and each group will be asked to pick one stock to value and produce a report of up to 1500 words with the analysis of the stock. The word limit does not include the bibliography but it includes all words in tables and figures as well as the text itself.
The report should make explicit reference to the topics covered in the course. It should discuss the applicability of each of the methods to value the chosen stock and also its limitations. Besides the project, students should also submit a spreadsheet with all calculations referred in the report. This will typically not be graded per se, but the grader / lecturer may use it in case of any doubt about the calculations. Hence the spreadsheet should be well-structured and easy to interpret. Students should also be prepared to explain all of their calculations and analysis to the grader / lecturer in case of any doubt. More detailed instructions will be announced in week 4.
Late submission of the equity research project can be accepted but the grade will suffer a substantial penalty for each day that has passed since the deadline. So you are strongly encouraged to submit the assignment on time.

Final Exam
This is a 2-hour comprehensive exam. The final examination will be held on UNSW campus during the UNSW centrally managed examination period. The final examination should be mostly based upon materials from week 7 to the final week of the course but it can test knowledge on any part of the course.

4.3 Assignment Submission Procedure
The assignment is to be submitted through moodle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Assurance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 COURSE RESOURCES
The website for this course is on Moodle at: [http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au](http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au)

There is no fixed textbook requirement for this course. However, much of the course relies on materials from three books:


The powerpoint presentations and practice questions will be posted on moodle and those should be the core elements of your study materials. The books are an additional, complementary, reference for your study. Copies of the books are available for purchase at the UNSW Book Store but you may also just borrow the books from the UNSW Library.

Other books that are related to the content of the course are:


The course puts a major emphasis on relevant, recent research in financial markets. The exams can include questions on the papers presented in class. You should be able to refer its main findings and discuss how they fit in the global picture of the course contents. Below is a list of relevant papers that we will present and discuss (note this list is not exhaustive, other papers can be presented and discussed as well):


Popular / classical / non-technical books related to the course content (not strictly required but always good reading material):


6 COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Each session feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the School and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. UNSW’s Courses and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) FINS5541 Advance Investments and Funds Management 11 Process (http://www.lut.unsw.edu.au/ref4-5-1_catei_process.cfm) is one of the ways in which student evaluative feedback is gathered. Significant changes to courses and programs within the School are communicated to subsequent cohorts of students. Please access the CATEI forms via my.unsw.edu.au.

In addition to the end of term CATEI process, you are encouraged to contact Dr. Pedro Barroso at p.barroso@unsw.edu.au during the term in relation to your experience in the courses and suggestions of potential changes that could further enhance the course.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 29 February</td>
<td>Introduction to valuation</td>
<td>D2-3, D9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 7 March</td>
<td>The dividend discount model</td>
<td>D11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 14 March</td>
<td>FCFE and relative valuation</td>
<td>D14, D17-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 21 March</td>
<td>FCFE and relative valuation (cont.)</td>
<td>D14, D17-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mid-semester break: Friday 25 March - Saturday 2 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5 4 April</th>
<th>Mid-session exam (TBA)</th>
<th>No lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 11 April</td>
<td>Private Equity</td>
<td>D24, CAIA 20-22.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 18 April</td>
<td>Real estate</td>
<td>D26, CAIA 8-10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 25 April</td>
<td>Commodities and currencies</td>
<td>CAIA 18-19, P11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 2 May</td>
<td>Portfolio performance evaluation</td>
<td>BKM24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 9 May</td>
<td>Hedge funds</td>
<td>BKM26, P1 and introduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11 16 May</td>
<td>Active portfolio management and advanced topics in portfolio management</td>
<td>BKM27-28, Brandt et al. (2009), DeMiguel et al. (2009), Barroso and Santa- Clara (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 23 May</td>
<td>Catch-up week and review for the exam</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13 30 May</td>
<td>NO LECTURES</td>
<td></td>
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PART B: KEY POLICIES, STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUPPORT

8 PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The Business School Program Learning Goals reflect what we want all students to BE or HAVE by the time they successfully complete their degree, regardless of their individual majors or specialisations. For example, we want all our graduates to HAVE a high level of business knowledge, and a sound awareness of ethical, social, cultural and environmental implications of business. As well, we want all our graduates to BE effective problem-solvers, communicators and team participants. These are our overall learning goals for you and are sought after by employers.

You can demonstrate your achievement of these goals by the specific outcomes you achieve by the end of your degree (e.g. be able to analyse and research business problems and propose well-justified solutions). Each course contributes to your development of two or more program learning goals/outcomes by providing opportunities for you to practise these skills and to be assessed and receive feedback.

Program Learning Goals for undergraduate and postgraduate students cover the same key areas (application of business knowledge, critical thinking, communication and teamwork, ethical, social and environmental responsibility), which are key goals for all Business students and essential for success in a globalised world. However, the specific outcomes reflect different expectations for these levels of study.

We strongly advise you to choose a range of courses which assist your development of these skills, e.g., courses assessing written and oral communication skills, and to keep a record of your achievements against the Program Learning Goals as part of your portfolio.

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business.unsw.edu.au

CRICOS Code 00098G
You should be able to:

a. Identify and assess ethical, environmental and/or sustainability considerations in business decision-making and practice, and
b. Consider social and cultural implications of business and/or management practice.

9 ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

The University regards plagiarism as a form of academic misconduct, and has very strict rules regarding plagiarism. For UNSW policies, penalties, and information to help you avoid plagiarism see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism as well as the guidelines in the online ELISE tutorials for all new UNSW students: http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise

To see if you understand plagiarism, do this short quiz: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism-quiz

For information on how to acknowledge your sources and reference correctly, see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing

For the Business School Harvard Referencing Guide, see the Business Referencing and Plagiarism webpage (Business >Students>Learning support> Resources>Referencing and plagiarism).

10 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to university policies in relation to class attendance and general conduct and behaviour, including maintaining a safe, respectful environment; and to understand their obligations in relation to workload, assessment and keeping informed.

Information and policies on these topics can be found in UNSW Current Students ‘Managing your Program’ webpages: https://student.unsw.edu.au/program.

10.1 Workload

It is expected that you will spend at least nine to ten hours per week studying this course. This time should be made up of reading, research, working on exercises and problems, online activities and attending classes. In periods where you need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater. Over-commitment has been a cause of failure for many students. You should take the required workload into account when planning how to balance study with employment and other activities.

We strongly encourage you to connect with your Moodle course websites in the first week of semester. Local and international research indicates that students who engage early and often with their course website are more likely to pass their course.

Information on expected workload: https://student.unsw.edu.au/uoc

10.2 Attendance

Your regular and punctual attendance at lectures and seminars, as well as in online activities, is expected in this course. University regulations indicate that if students attend
less than 80% of scheduled classes they may be refused final assessment. For more information, see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/attendance

10.3 General Conduct and Behaviour
You are expected to conduct yourself with consideration and respect for the needs of your fellow students and teaching staff. Conduct which unduly disrupts or interferes with a class, such as ringing or talking on mobile phones, is not acceptable and students may be asked to leave the class. More information on student conduct is available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct

10.4 Health and Safety
UNSW Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For more information, see http://safety.unsw.edu.au/.

10.5 Keeping Informed
You should take note of all announcements made in lectures, tutorials or on the course website. From time to time, the University will send important announcements to your university e-mail address without providing you with a paper copy. You will be deemed to have received this information. It is also your responsibility to keep the University informed of all changes to your contact details.

11 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
You must submit all assignments and attend all examinations scheduled for your course. You should seek assistance early if you suffer illness or misadventure which affects your course progress.

General information on special consideration for undergraduate and postgraduate courses:

1. All applications for special consideration must be lodged online through myUNSW within 3 working days of the assessment (Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services > Online Services > Special Consideration). You will then need to submit the originals or certified copies of your completed Professional Authority form (pdf - download here) and other supporting documentation to Student Central. For more information, please study carefully in advance the instructions and conditions at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

2. Please note that documentation may be checked for authenticity and the submission of false documentation will be treated as academic misconduct. The School may ask to see the original or certified copy.

3. Applications will not be accepted by teaching staff. The lecturer-in-charge will be automatically notified when you lodge an online application for special consideration.

4. Decisions and recommendations are only made by lecturers-in-charge (or by the Faculty Panel in the case of UG final exam special considerations), not by tutors.

5. Applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam or other concession.

6. Special consideration requests do not allow lecturers-in-charge to award students additional marks.
Business School policy on requests for special consideration for Final Exams in undergraduate and postgraduate courses:
The lecturer-in-charge will need to be satisfied on each of the following before supporting a request for special consideration:

1. Does the medical certificate contain all relevant information? For a medical certificate to be accepted, the degree of illness, and impact on the student, must be stated by the medical practitioner (severe, moderate, mild). A certificate without this will not be valid.
2. Has the student performed satisfactorily in the other assessment items? Satisfactory performance would require at least meeting the obligation to have attended 80% of tutorials.
3. Does the student have a history of previous applications for special consideration? A history of previous applications may preclude a student from being granted special consideration.

Special consideration and the Final Exam in undergraduate and postgraduate courses:
Applications for special consideration in relation to the final exam are considered by a Business School Faculty panel to which lecturers-in-charge provide their recommendations for each request. If the Faculty panel grants a special consideration request, this will entitle the student to sit a supplementary examination. No other form of consideration will be granted. The following procedures will apply:

1. Supplementary exams will be scheduled centrally and will be held approximately two weeks after the formal examination period. The dates for Business School supplementary exams for Semester 1, 2016 are:
   - 12th July – exams for the School of Accounting
   - 13th July – exams for all Schools except Accounting and Economics
   - 14th July – exams for the School of Economics
   If a student lodges a special consideration for the final exam, they are stating they will be available on the above dates. Supplementary exams will not be held at any other time.
2. Where a student is granted a supplementary examination as a result of a request for special consideration, the student’s original exam (if completed) will be ignored and only the mark achieved in the supplementary examination will count towards the final grade. Failure to attend the supplementary exam will not entitle the student to have the original exam paper marked and may result in a zero mark for the final exam.

If you attend the regular final exam, you are extremely unlikely to be granted a supplementary exam. Hence if you are too ill to perform up to your normal standard in the regular final exam, you are strongly advised not to attend. However, granting of a supplementary exam in such cases is not automatic. You would still need to satisfy the criteria stated above.

The Business School’s Special Consideration and Supplementary Examination Policy and Procedures for Final Exams for Undergraduate Courses is available at:
Special consideration and assessments other than the Final Exam in undergraduate courses:
For tasks worth <20%, LICs have flexibility in deciding how to grant extensions and special consideration.
Special considerations must be applied for using the online system above for any assessment more than 20% of the student’s final mark. The lecture will advise the outcome of the special consideration via the online system.

12 STUDENT RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
The University and the Business School provide a wide range of support services for students, including:

- **Business School Education Development Unit (EDU)**
  [https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/learning-support](https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/learning-support)
The EDU provides academic writing, study skills and maths support specifically for Business students. Services include workshops, online resources, and individual consultations. EDU Office: Level 1, Room 1033, Quadrangle Building. Phone: 9385 5584; Email: edu@unsw.edu.au.

- **Business Student Centre**
  [https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/student-centre](https://www.business.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/student-centre)
Provides advice and direction on all aspects of admission, enrolment and graduation. Office: Level 1, Room 1028 in the Quadrangle Building; Phone: 9385 3189.

- **Moodle eLearning Support**
  For online help using Moodle, go to: [https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support](https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support). For technical support, email: itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au; Phone: 9385 1333.

- **UNSW Learning Centre**
  [www.lc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au) Provides academic skills support services, including workshops and resources, for all UNSW students. See website for details.

- **Library training and search support services**
  [http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/services.html](http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/services.html)

- **IT Service Centre**
  Provides technical support for problems logging in to websites, downloading documents etc. [https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html](https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html) Office: UNSW Library Annexe (Ground floor). Ph: 9385 1333.

- **UNSW Counselling and Psychological Services**
  [https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing](https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing) Provides support and services if you need help with your personal life, getting your academic life back on track or just want to know how to stay safe, including free, confidential counselling. Office: Level 2, East Wing, Quadrangle Building; Phone: 9385 5418; Email: counselling@unsw.edu.au

- **Student Equity & Disabilities Unit**
  [http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au](http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au) Provides advice regarding equity and diversity issues, and support for students who have a disability or disadvantage that interferes with their learning. Office: Ground Floor, John Goodsell Building; Phone: 9385 4734; Email: seadu@unsw.edu.au